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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SEPA-
RATECH CANADA INC. (CA/CA); 221 St-Sacrement,
Montreal, Québec H2Y 1X2 (CA).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): BENACHENHOU,
Amine (CA/CA); 9409, rue de Marseille, Montreal,
Québec H1L 1T4 (CA).

(74) Agents: MURPHY, Kevin, P. et al.; Ogilvy Renault, Suite
1600, 1981 McGill College Avenue, Montreal, Québec
H3A 2Y3 (CA).

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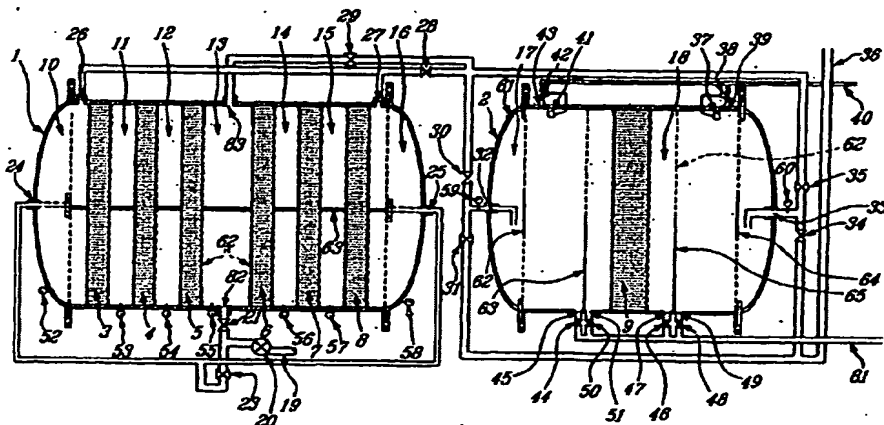
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OIL WATER SEPARATION



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for separating immiscible liquids in a dispersion containing an aqueous liquid and at least one dispersed non-aqueous liquid by passing the dispersion through a series of absorbents, preferably polymeric. The direction of the flow through the absorbent is periodically changed. The period required before a change of the flow direction is established by the differential pressure. There is a gradual increase in the differential pressure across the absorbents which indicates a blockage due to viscous oil and/or solids. The product produced by the method and the apparatus of the invention is a polished non-aqueous phase and a polished aqueous phase both having low contaminant levels. In a preferred embodiment when solids are also present in the dispersion, a solids stream is also recovered.

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WO 2004/087286 A1